

Mainland British Records: 14 June 2003: Dymchurch, Kent (J. Owen); 16 June 2003: Dymchurch, Kent (J. Owen); 24 June 2003: Lydd, Kent (K. Redshaw); 30 June 2003: Wyke Regis, Dorset (D. Foot); 1 July 2003: Portland Bill, Dorset (M. Cade & D. Walbridge); 1 July 2003: Puddletown, Dorset (H. Wood Homer); 5 July 2003: Totland, Isle of Wight (S. Knill-Jones); 5 July 2003: Swanage, Dorset (R. Cox); 7 July 2003: Boys Wood, Dorset (P. Davey). **Isles of Scilly:** 15, 25 & 29 July 2003: St. Mary's (M.A. Scott). **Channel Islands:** 5 July 2001: St. Peters, Guernsey (P. Costen); 17 July 2001: Icart Point, St Martins, Guernsey (T. Peet); 21 June 2003: (two), Surville, Jersey (R. Long); 5 July 2003: St. Peter Port, Guernsey (P. Costen).

I understand from Colin Plant, via Mark Tunmore, that further examples were captured at Maenporth, Cornwall, on 10 June by G. Davis and Durlston Country Park, Dorset, on 20 July by D. C. Brown. One wonders if this is a fresh immigration or whether these are the progeny of 2003 immigrants. The only other immigrant species in my own trap on the same night was a single Small Mottled Willow *Spodoptera exigua* (Hb.) The species is illustrated in colour in *Atropos* No. 22, Plate 3, Fig. 9.—DUNCAN FRASER, 123 The Street, Capel, Dorking RH5 5JX.

***Chloroclysta truncata* (Hufn.) (Lep.: Geometridae): the return of ab. *russata* Hb. to north-west Kent**

A further significant step in the decline of industrial melanism was heralded with the presence of a specimen of ab. *russata* Hb. of this species at my garden mv light on 20 September 2003. This is the brightest form of *truncata* to be found in southern Britain, characterised by its white, forewing central band, which contrasts with the dark markings. Though common in East Kent, here it has been replaced by melanistic forms. It follows the reappearance of ab. *griseovariegata* Mull. here in 1992, and which is slowly increasing in incidence.

In 2003, the population of *C. truncata* here is still dominated by the ab. *rufescens* Prout complex (mainly *fuscusrufescens* Prout) and the melanic ab. *perfuscata* Haw.; the extreme melanic form *mixta* Prout and *nigerrima* Fuchs are all but eliminated from the region. However relative stability in polymorphism in *C. truncata* is still a long way off.—B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Koad, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

The Scarce Tissue *Rheumaptera cervinalis* Scop. (Lep.: Geometridae) from two sites in Hertfordshire

Geescroft Wilderness, one of the long-running woodland light-traps on Rothamsted Farm (trap No. 22, O.S. Grid Ref.: TL 132128), recorded three specimens this year – on the nights of 15/16 and 16/17 April; and 16/17 May. It last occurred in this trap in 2000; and indeed, has significantly declined at this site since a peak in 1979, with several gaps of years with no records.

Harpenden IV (trap No. 594, O.S. Grid. Ref.: TL 153133), a relatively new Rothamsted trap site, recorded four specimens – one each on the nights of 6/7, 9/10, 10/11 and 13/14 May.

The last Hertfordshire record was in 2003, with the previous being 2001; however, 2004 appears to have been a particularly good year for this species.

Not a very common visitor to light, this species can often be over-looked, so may be more common than is realised. The fact that it has taken to feeding on cultivated species of *Berberis* (there is a large plant near trap 594) means that its range is not affected by the occurrence of its natural foodplant, Barberry *Berberis vulgaris*. — PHILIP J. L. GOULD, Co-ordinator of Light-trap Network, Rothamsted Insect Survey, Plant & Invertebrate Ecology Division, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2JQ (E-mail: phil.gould@bbsrc.ac.uk).

Invitation to Contribute to Invertebrate Biodiversity Prioritisation

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is a key part of the nature conservation effort towards ensuring that the United Kingdom fulfils its obligations under the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity. Under the BAP, target driven Species Action Plans (SAPs) and Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) are prepared for those species and habitats that could face extinction or dramatic decline without concerted efforts.

Currently the BAP lists 391 Priority species, 44% of which are invertebrates. Listing has succeeded in greatly raising the profile of such species, together with the funding for survey and monitoring, autecological research and site management.

The list of BAP Priority Species is to be reviewed in 2005. This includes a full review of the existing priority list and is an opportunity to put forward species to be listed that are in urgent need of action.

To ensure that the conservation needs of invertebrates are represented in the review process, Invertebrate Link (Joint Committee for the Conservation of British Insects – JCCBI) has contracted Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust, to help co-ordinate relevant input to the review by:

- identifying coordinators for groups of invertebrate taxa, who will liaise with other relevant experts in reviewing the conservation status of British species and suggesting what changes should be made to the current list of BAP Priority Species;
- assisting coordinators in the review process as far as possible. For example, through JNCC, raw lists of British species for each group of invertebrate taxa will be produced, showing their current conservation designations (where this information is readily available), providing a template against which coordinators can work;
- collating a proposed list of invertebrates to be put forward in the BAP review process;
- presenting the list to DEFRA by early 2005 after which there will be two further stages of Government led prioritisation applied.